The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Breathes there the [illegible] with soul so dead,
Who never to h[illegible] hath said,
"This is my own, [illegible]tive land."
—Sir Wa[illegible] Scott.

AID TO MINERS IS TRADE UNION DUTY

Organized labor is responding to the A. F. of L. appeal in behalf of anthracite miners, but the need for continuous contributions is urgent. Every affiliate and every sympathizer should exert himself to aid these 168,000 miners, their wives, children and dependents.

These workers must be sustained so they can not be starved into submission.

Behind the operators stand the coal-carrying railroads who are interlocked with powerful financial interests and a nation-wide propaganda machine.

If the operators recede from their position and the lockout were ended, financial aid must continue, as it will be weeks, in some cases, before the mines can be cleared and operations resumed.

The anthracite region is not the only front on which the miners are resisting exploitation. The attack is far flung. It reaches from Nova Scotia on the east to Oklahoma on the west and from West Virginia and Alabama in the south.

In Alabama the union is fought with convict labor. In West Virginia all semblance of democracy is gone. In Oklahoma—as in West Virginia—the Jacksonville agreement has been repudiated by operators who have driven wages to the starvation point, installed strikebreakers and are aided by state officials.

In Nova Scotia the British Empire Steel corporation equals their associates in the "States" for anti-union ferocity.

Every weapon at their command, every opinion-molding function, is used by these capitalists on both sides of the boundary to destroy the miners' union.

There is one effective method by which organized labor can protest against this welter of hate and greed.

The A. F. of L. executive council has appealed for aid in behalf of the 600,000 miners and their dependents in the anthracite fields. These miners have been idle for nearly six months.

They have been loyal to the cause of trade unionism.

The need for financial aid is pressing, both from a humanitarian and an organized labor standpoint.

SINCERE OR IGNORANT?

Is Mr. Dawes sincere or ignorant? He insists that one member of the United States senate can block legislation by talking for an indefinite period.

Mr. Dawes made this claim during the past summer. From coast to coast he has pictured the senate as a helpless body because its rules permit one member to speak continuously for the purpose of blocking legislation.

The senate has now applied a senate rule 22 on the world court debate and Mr. Dawes is placed in a ridiculous position.

Rule 22 provides that when 16 senators petition that debate on a pending measure be closed, the presiding officer shall submit for a vote the following question "one hour after the senate meets on the following calendar day but one":

"Shall it be the sense of the senate that the debate shall be brought to a close?"

A two-thirds vote is necessary. If the vote is in the affirmative each senator is limited to one hour's discussion of the pending question and of all amendments and dilatory motions.

By a vote of 68 to 26, the senate applied rule 22 on the world court issue. This was five votes more than the necessary two-thirds.

Is Mr. Dawes sincere in his attack on the senate rules?

Or is he ignorant of these rules?

Or is he just interested in bringing the senate into popular contempt, regardless of how he accomplishes that purpose?

POOR WORKING MAN'S GUARDIANS AT OUTS

New York, Jan. 30.—After serving 25 years as secretary-treasurer of the American Protective Tariff league, Wilbur F. Wakeman has resigned. He is one of the original shouters for a full dinner pail. He now discovers that the league is in control of a secret group of special privilege seekers who are aided by Washington lobbyists. These are debauching the holy cause of protection to American wage workers, says Mr. Wakeman.

Joseph R. Grundy, Philadelphia textile manufacturer, led the fight that wrought Mr. Wakeman's undoing. The Philadelphia manufacturer is a leader against child labor legislation and other social legislation. Last month he handed the tariff league a check for $7,000 but refused to name the contributor.

Mr. Wakeman infers that Mr. Grundy could tell an interesting tale of secret groups and Washington lobbyists who are protecting the poor workingman.

U. S. BUREAU OPPOSES BOSSES' PENSION PLAN

Washington, Jan. 30.—A report on employers' old-age pensions, published by the United States bureau of labor statistics, sustains organized labor's charge that this system is intended to tie workers to their jobs and keep them from striking, if necessary, against poor conditions.

The study was made by Miss Conyngton of the bureau, and covers over 200 companies which have some form of old-age disability pension scheme for their employes.

Of the plans covered, only 13 are contributory. In the others the company pays the whole cost.

Miss Conyngton points out that organized labor opposes employers' pension schemes on the ground that they—

(1) Tie the workers to the job and make them submit tamely to poor conditions.

(2) May be used as a lever to (a) keep employes out of strikes or (b) to force retired employes to act as strikebreakers.

(3) They are not granted to workers as a right, but as a gratuity which may be revoked by the employer.

The investigator sustains these objections.

"As to objection 1," she says, "these are the very reasons why schemes are favored by employers.

"As to (2-a) the wording of many of the plans confirms the charge. As to (2-b) this is not so common, but exists under some of the plans.

"As to (3), this is almost a fatal objection, in the opinion of many, as the worker has no rights whatever in the matter, even when he has fulfilled every condition."

The investigator suggests that annuity plans, taken out with a regular insurance company, are regarded as "a possible improvement on the present plans, but these have not been tested."

PUBLIC IS FLEECED BY COAL MERCHANTS

Washington, Jan. 30.—Retail coal dealers in the nation's capital are gouging the public, Senator Reed of Pennsylvania asserted on the floor of the senate.

The retailers made their expected denial. They insist they buy coal from West Virginia and not Pennsylvania. Senator Neely of the former state supported Senator Reed's charge. He said at no time since the war have the retailers paid more than $4.50 a ton for coal from the non-union Pocahontas-New River fields of his state. To these figures should be added a freight rate of $2.84. The retailers are charging $16 and $17.

The discussion in the senate was extended to the manner in which non-union coal mines in Kentucky and West Virginia are monopolizing the up-lakes business because of a differential in freight rates against Ohio and Pennsylvania mines. Senator Willis of the former state said that 1,000 mines have largely closed down while coal trains from Kentucky and other southern points constantly run through Ohio.

Senator Reed pointed out that the rail rate on a ton of coal from Ironton, Ohio, to the docks for shipment up the lakes is $1.91 for a haul of 258 miles, while the rate from a Kentucky point in the same, though twice the distance.

FAKE 'EQUAL RIGHTS' PLAN REJECTED BY UNION WOMEN

Washington, Jan. 30.—In presenting President Coolidge a memorandum against a so-called "equal rights" amendment to the federal constitution, a group of trade union women said: "A hostile new element for better working conditions has appeared in the form of an agitation conducted by the National Woman's party."

President Coolidge had previously received an appeal from "equal rights" advocates. They want the constitution changed so that all protective legislation for women will be annulled and these women may work unlimited hours. At the women's conference called by the United States women's bureau, the "equal rights" advocates demanded that the conference disapprove the women's bureau favoring women's legislation.

In their memorandum the trade union women stated that the "equal rights" advocates are no part of the trade union movement, and that their proposal is opposed by the American Federation of Labor.

"In view of the agitation which has for its purpose the destruction, by a so-called 'equal rights' amendment, of the laws of nearly every state in the Union which limit the hours and fix standards for the working conditions of women in industry," the memorandum states, "we reiterate our support of such legislation and our hope that it may be extended and its standards improved.

"We regard such legislation not as discrimination against women, but as a means toward an equal industrial footing for women and men. Generally speaking, the women-employed industries are the industries in which the lowest hours prevail. The destruction of all legal limitations upon hours of work for women would have the effect of lengthening women's hours of labor without affecting the hours of men, thereby increasing the present inequality between the hours of men and those of women.

"Furthermore, to take the position that there should be no labor laws for women which do not apply to men is to say, in effect, that women's conditions of employment shall not be improved by law until legislatures are ready to enact similar laws for men, a position which, when current economic facts are faced, is clearly far in the future."

MEXICAN LAND LAWS CLAIMED TO BE JUST

Washington, Jan. 30.—The Mexican ambassador has issued a defense of the Mexican land and oil laws that has been prepared by Senor Saenz, secretary of foreign affairs at Mexico City.

This law provides that Mexico will control mineral lands in certain cases, and that foreign capitalists shall be under jurisdiction of Mexican courts. The American government claims that certain features of the laws are retroactive and confiscatory.

Defending the right of Mexico to pass such legislation, Senor Saenz said that the "policy of the present government was more liberal than that of the United States." He said that by means of immigration laws foreigners were practically barred from establishing themselves in this country, in a great part of which residence is required as a condition to the acquisition of real property.

Laws similar to the provisions contained in the organic law of Mexico, he declared, have been enacted in Arizona and Illinois.

Arizona, he said, passed a law in 1913, under which only American citizens, or those declaring their intention to become naturalized, are permitted to acquire real property, and in Illinois "there exist similar provisions, but with greater restrictions, this law only granting a period of five years in which foreigners must dispose of the properties which they have, and if they fail to do so their lands will be confiscated to the benefit of the state of Illinois."

GARMENT WORKERS ACTIVE

New York, Jan. 30.—A voluntary committee of 500, under direction of officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, is conducting an organization drive in this city. Hundreds of non-union shops, employing thousands of workers, are visited. In the first three days 129 shops were tied up. Many of them signed an agreement with the union.

Immigration Law Under Flank Fire

Opponents of immigration restriction are making flank attacks against this legislation.

These forces can not claim "the United States needs unskilled labor," as it is no longer denied that the productive forces of the country are greater than its consuming power.

The foes of restriction are now posing as humanitarians, and are urging several proposals that would open the side door to aliens.

One of these amendments would permit any Oriental born in this country to go to the Far East, marry, and return to the United States with his wife. Under this system there would be a steady and never failing increase in the Oriental population of this country.

This proposal is but one of many attempts to weaken the present quota law and destroy its usefulness.

LABOR'S PICTURE UNIT DRAWS LARGE CROWDS

Washington, Jan. 30. — Crowded houses greet the picture unit of labor's organization and educational campaign that is now touring Michigan.

In a letter to John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer of the union label trades department, Organizer McCarthy says two shows were necessary in Flint, and more than 2,500 persons attended. The same is true in Saginaw and other cities. The picture filled a week's schedule in Detroit high school auditoriums.

TERM "DOLE" A MISNOMER

London, England, Jan. 30.—The London Economist protests against calling the British unemployment scheme a "dole."

"The term is a misnomer, implying as it does that the recipient is living on charity," says this publication.

"The whole scheme of unemployment pay is a property worked out insurance scheme, whose actuarial basis it is true, has been strained from time to time by unexpectedly large-scale unemployment."

SHIP OWNERS PLEAD FOR AMNESTY BUT WON'T PLEDGE TO OBEY LAW

Washington, Jan. 30.—A so-called "deportation" bill, before the house committee on immigration, would grant a general amnesty to American citizens who have violated the immigration law and to the thousands of aliens who have been illegally brought to this country as seamen by the ship owners.

For years representatives of the International Seamen's union have called attention to the ship owners' policy that has driven American citizens from the sea and filled these ships with aliens who are not entitled to admission to the country. The ship owners now plead guilty to the indictment, but ask that the slate be wiped clean and that they be not only punished nor be compelled to return the aliens. They refuse, however, to accept any change in the immigration law which will prevent similar violations in the future.

In fact, they would use the proposed amnesty so that seamen who can not be admitted under the immigration law can be brought in under the proposed change. This would open a channel through which the immigration law could be more generally disregarded.

The ship owners in the coastwise trade acknowledge that one-half of the men employed by them are subject to deportation. They insist that if the law were enforced it would be impossible for them to man their vessels.

Organized seamen show that the vessel owners have driven competent seamen from their ships because of poor working conditions and that if amnesty is granted the ship owners will continue their policy, and in a few years will demand another amnesty.

Not satisfied with this special privilege, the ship owners ask that they, together with foreign vessels, be exempt from paying the expense of seamen placed in hospitals because of contagious diseases.

Under the La Follette seamen's law ship owners must pay this hospital cost, as do ship owners of every other maritime nation. The American ship owners resisted the law and were recently defeated in the United States supreme court when this section of the seamen's law was upheld. Now the American ship owners have inserted a joker in the so-called "deportation" bill which will relieve them of this cost. It will also relieve foreign ship owners from the laws of their own nations, which compel them to pay hospital costs and the cost of returning afflicted seamen to their own country.

This plea for themselves and for foreign ships sustains the organized seamen's charge that American ship owners are a part of the international shipping trust.

The so-called "deportation" bill is one of the most daring demands ever made by American ship owners.

MORE MINE KILLINGS ARE MATTER OF TIME

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 30.—Organized miners predict other mine disasters in this state because of the operators' defiance of safety laws and their employment of incompetent mine workers.

The recent explosion of the Jamieson Coal and Coke company mine, when 19 lives were lost, followed a similar disaster at the Barrackville mine, owned by the Bethlehem Mines corporation. Both concerns abrogated the Jacksonville agreement.

Van Bittner, representative of the United Mine Workers, points out that the United States bureau of mines has found that mine explosions are not normal occupational disasters, but can be prevented.

Those who have the courage of their convictions, Mr. Bittner, "know that the Jamieson company's criminal negligence caused that explosion."

MUSSOLINI DEFENDED BY NEW YORK BANKERS

New York, Jan. 30.—Mussolini was defended by Thomas W. Lamont and Otto H. Kahn, bankers, before the Foreign Policy association at its bi-monthly meeting.

"Mussolini is neither a demagogue nor a reactionary; he is a patriotic realist," said Mr. Kahn. "He is no dictator in the generally understood sense of the word. He holds his position and power by the overwhelmingly expressed will of the people and has the approval of the constitutional head of the state, the king."

The bankers were opposed by Dr. William Y. Elliott, lecturer on government at Harvard university. The Mussolini government, he said, "is based on force and fear. Personal liberty and liberty of the press no longer exist there. The violence of Fascism will be met by counter-violence in the future.

"Fascism," continued Dr. Elliott, "is merely an organized body of armed thugs who will remain in control until the public awakens. The people do not dare talk, nor do Italians abroad dare discuss the government, for if they do their property is taken from them."

FAVOR DIRECT PRIMARIES

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 30.—Bills to restore the direct primary system have been introduced in the general assembly. Governor Smith made this recommendation in his annual message.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Houston, Texas, Jan. 30.—Officers of the Texas State Federation of Labor have issued a call for the annual convention, to be held in this city, beginning Monday, April 19.

OHIO ORGANIZED LABOR WILL ENTER PRIMARIES

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 30.—At a record-breaking non-partisan political conference of trade unionists from every section of the state, it was agreed that especial attention be given judicial and state legislative offices at the coming primary and election.

The conference was called by President Frey and the executive board of the Ohio State Federation of Labor. More than 600 representatives responded.

City central and local unions were urged to set up committees for the consideration of candidates in the primaries for legislative and judicial offices and that "due consideration be given to their fitness, availability and trade union affiliation or established friendship and the probability of their election."

The last Ohio general assembly ignored every demand of labor, and the conference indorsed a legislative program that includes enforcement of the eight-hour law on public work, opposition to state cossacks and changes in the workmen's compensation law.

Relief from labor injunctions is another major issue, as opposition to the "yellow dog" contract, which deprives workers of their right to join a trade union.

FORCED RAIL UNITY IS CUMMINS' PLAN

Washington, Jan.30.—Senator Cummins favors legislation that will force railroads to merge into a few systems. Under the transportation act the roads may unite, but such action is not mandatory. Some combines have been effected, but few are object to taking over non-paying properties.

Senator Cummins said that the roads as a whole can not be operated by private ownership under present rates without consolidation. "Between 65,000 and 70,000 miles of roads will have to be discontinued," he said, "unless consolidation is effected or the only other alternative—the roads will be taken over by the government to be operated regardless of cost or loss to the treasury."

Testifying before a senate committee, Chairman Eastman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, opposed the Cummins' plan.

Mr. Eastman favored "a gradual and natural consolidation." He said there has been a tendency to exaggerate the possible advantages of these consolidations. In favoring voluntary merging, he said:

"Economy and efficiency of operation are much more than a matter of size. There are small railroad companies which are as economically and efficiently operated as any of the great systems."

JULIUS ZORN IS DEAD

Cincinnati, Jan. 30.—Julius Zorn, lifelong trade unionist, died in this city. He was editor of the Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers' Journal.

He was an able expounder of trade unionism, and his writings in defense of liberty and social justice were widely copied.

WHEELER CHARGES DROPPED; SENATOR BLOCKS 'FRAME-UP'

Washington, Jan. 30.—Following repeated rebuffs in the courts, the department of justice has dropped the conspiracy charge against Senator Wheeler of Montana. He was accused of conspiring to defraud the government in obtaining permits for public lands.

Attorney General Daugherty started the proceedings, following Senator Wheeler's attack on Daugherty and methods employed by the department of justice.

After Daugherty resigned, as a result of a public protest against him, the Wheeler case was continued by Attorney General Stone, now a member of the United States supreme court, and the present attorney general—Sargent.

A senate committee investigated the charge and unanimously reported in favor of Senator Wheeler. The accused was also acquitted by a Montana jury. The department of justice then reopened the case in a District of Columbia court, which ruled that "the indictment charges no violation of the laws of the United States."

Senator Wheeler's friends insist that he was a frame-up victim because he dared to criticise Daugherty. They compare his vigorous prosecution with the snail-like methods of the department against the aluminum trust, tax evasions and the oil grabs.

LAWYERS WANT STATE TO AID THEIR UNION

New York, Jan. 30.—Members of the State Bar association are divided on the Gibbs' bill, pending in the state assembly, which would compel all attorneys to join the lawyers' union.

Members of the association have tried to force all lawyers to accept the working rules of their union. These rules are known as "a code of ethics." It is now proposed to drive every lawyer into the State Bar association through legislative enactment. If he doesn't join the union, he can not work; he will not be recognized by the courts.

Charles E. Hughes, former member of the United States supreme court, says the proposal is constitutional. Elihu Root, former secretary of state, takes the opposite view.

Wm. D. Guthie, president of the City Bar association, opposes the plan because the bill would place the Lawyers' union in the hands of incompetents. He said there are 12,000 lawyers in the large cities of the state who have not shown enough professional pride to join the union of their calling. If they are forced to join, they will control the State Bar association and lower its dignity.

The bill is backed by the opposition to organized workers when they insist that all wage earners should join a trade union. The trade unionists appeal to the judgment of the non-unionists, while the lawyers, who condemn such action, would have the state aid them in building up their organization.

BREAD INGREDIENTS TO BE TRUSTIFIED

New York, Jan. 30.—There are Wall street rumors of a gigantic combine that will include sugar, flour, yeast, salt, milk and other ingredients of bread making.

William B. Ward, who is uniting scores of bakery plants, is promoting the new super merger, it is said.

The bread companies buy their flour and other bread-making ingredients, and it is proposed to save on these articles by having them under one control.

The Federal Trade Commission is alleged to be investigating the new bread trust.

JOHN E. RAKER DEAD; LABOR LOSES FRIEND

Washington, Jan. 30.—John E. Raker, congressman from California for 15 years, died in this city after a five-weeks' illness. During his service as a national law maker he never voted against a single piece of legislation urged by labor. In all the stormy days associated with the trade union demand for trust exemption, for immigration restriction, relief from injunction judges and speeding-up methods in government workshops, Congressman Raker stood four-square with labor.

COMPENSATION LAW UPHELD IN ARIZONA

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 30.—The state supreme court has upheld the Arizona compensation law. The act was written into the statutes after long opposition by ambulance-chasing lawyers, private liability companies and large employing interests.

The court sustained the law in every particular except one and in that case the decision extends to employes engaged in non-hazardous private industry the same rights as employes in hazardous occupations.

The court dismissed as "trivial" all other objections.

GRAND JURY SYSTEM DECLARED "USELESS"

New York, Jan. 30.—The grand jury system was declared a "useless body" by William D. Cunningham, district attorney of Ulster county, in an address to the New York Bar association.

"Grand juries," he said, "are dominated by district attorneys, anyway, and their elimination would leave the responsibility directly upon the shoulders of the prosecutors, where it belongs. In my long experience as district attorney I never knew a grand jury to perform a useful function."

U. S. WORKERS REPLY TO ANCIENT SLANDER

Washington, Jan. 30.—The National Federation of Federal Employes denies Congressman Davey's claim that sweeping reductions can be made in the number of government employes without impairing services.

In a public letter to Mr. Davey, President Steward and Secretary-Treasurer Gertrude McNally of the federation, show that such reductions are not of the question unless service now rendered is likewise reduced.

Congressman Davey would give the president unlimited power to reorganize the departments, shift employes to suit his whim, and distribute 10 per cent of the savings to government employes whom he believes are underpaid.

The federal employes point out that the Davey plan would revolutionize our government by taking this power from congress and place it in the president's hands.

"If conditions in the federal government have changed," have declared," the unionists say, "the remedy lies not in delegating to the president dictatorial power, but in congress now have authority, but to prevail upon him to direct the budget bureau to make all such investigations as are warranted by the facts, and to report to him the results of its investigations, so that they may be submitted to congress in a form that will permit of their consideration with what may be termed calm process of law.

"This course is the safe one for a republican government, because it will not permit a small group of powerful individuals to work their will which could not be done if the matter had to be submitted to congress."

CRY "LABOR SHORTAGE" FOR VICIOUS PURPOSE

Washington, Jan. 30.—San Francisco trade unionists inform President Green of a plot by anti-union employers to fill the west coast city with unemployed. Although thousands of idle workers are walking the streets of that city, the employers administer advertise a "labor shortage."

One trade unionist writes: "The reason for this action by these labor haters is that the Brotherhood of Carpenters is conducting a vigorous campaign to establish union-shop conditions on April 1 next."

The United States employment service sustains the trade unionists claim that there is an oversupply of mechanics in the San Francisco bay district.

CAP MAKERS RAISE WAGES

Baltimore, Jan. 30.—Wage increases that range from $1 to $5 a week have been secured by the Cap and Hat Makers' union.

MEXICAN LABOR MAKES PROGRESS; SLIPPERY REACTION IS WATCHED

Washington, Jan. 30.—"Let no one delude himself that special interests in the United States will accept a social development now in progress in Mexico," said Santiago Iglesias, Spanish language secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, who has just returned from Mexico.

"It is charged that Mexico has undergone a revolution, and this is true," said Mr. Iglesias. "The revolution is in that government's attitude toward the workers. Today they are considered as men and women, rather than peons and serfs, which was the rule under the Diaz regime.

"Under the laws of Mexico, the old policy of smashing strikes is ended. Employers must treat with organizations of labor. A majority of the workers in any establishment have the right to decide what union they will join. This outlaws the company 'union.'

"Only recently an oil company in Vera Cruz ignored this law, and proceeded to break a strike of workers who were attempting to improve working conditions. When I was in Mexico City the Mexican supreme court ruled that the company violated the law by its refusal to treat with employes, and assessed damages against the company for wages of the workers that amounted to $500,000 in American money.

"Most of the employers have accepted the principle of collective bargaining, compensation laws and legislation that protects women and children.

"The new agricultural laws are similar to the United States homestead laws, with the exception that land given Mexican agricultural workers by the state family tracts can not be mortgaged or sold. The government is determined to provide land for those of the citizens desiring to follow agriculture. The government is taking over vast areas of choice land from the hands of foreign interests by the corrupt Diaz regime and returning it to the people."

Mr. Iglesias declared that Mexico has made greater social progress in the last few years than any country in the world. These workers, he said, have accepted wholeheartedly the evolutionary theory of trade unions, as advocated by the American Federation of Labor.

He said that the Mexican government and the Mexican trade unionists, who are entirely in sympathy with their government, are alert to the opposition of small groups of privilege-seeking capitalists in the United States who are biding their time to turn public opinion in this country against the southern republic.